

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00960 031222Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 031126Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 674
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 960

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: UNIFIL NEXT STEPS

REF: (A) STATE 84784, (B) BEIRUT 1806, (C) BEIRUT 1810

SUMMARY: GUR TOLD SIILASVUO APRIL 2 ISRAEL COULD NOT
PROMDUCE TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL AS LONG AS
UNIFIL NOT FULLY DEPLOYED OR FIRM UN TIMETABLE IN HAND.
ASSUMING NORWEGIANS IN PLACE WITHIN FOUR DAYS, IDF ON APRIL
10 WILL DEPLOY TEN KMS TO SOUTH ON EASTERN FLANK AND WILL
DO SAME IN CENTER BY APRIL 13. AS FOR TYRE, NO IDF WITHDRAWAL
UNTIL IT IS UNDER CONTROL OF UN OR LEBANESE ARMY. GUR UNHAPPY
OVER SITUATION AND SAID IDF MAY HAVE TO USE FORCE. HE URGED
SIILASVUO TO PRESS SYRIANS TO CONTROL PALESTINIANS IN TYRE.
SIILASVUO OBSERVED NEGOTIATED SOLUTION NEEDED. HE PROPOSED
VISIT TO DAMASCUS APRIL 4, BUT UNNY HAS TO CONSULT WALDHEIM
WHO IS IN LONDON. SIILASVUO SEES NEED FOR SENIOR UNIFIL
REP IN BEIRUT AND IS HIMSELF CONSIDERING MAKING EARLY VISIT.

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UNNY AGREES UNIFIL HQ WILL BE AT AZ ZAHRANI, 8 KMS SOUTH OF
SIDON. GOL HAS SENT LTCOL TO UN FORWARD HQ AT NAQOURA.
END SUMMARY.

1. SAW SIILASVUO 1000 LOCAL APRIL 3. HE LED OFF WITH READOUT
ON HIS MEETING WITH GUR/EITAN/GAZIT THE PREVIOUS EVENING.
GUR SAID HE COULD NOT PRODUCE TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR

WITHDRAWAL AS LONG AS UNIFIL NOT FULLY DEPLOYED OR IN POSITION TO PRODUCE ITS TIMETABLE BASED ON THE ARRIVAL AND DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL BATTALIONS. HE STRESSED GOI'S DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW AND EXPRESSED HOPE THIS COULD OCCUR BEFORE PASSOVER (APRIL 22). HOWEVER, IDF COULD LEAVE NO VACUUM. WHEN NORWEGIANS FULLY DEPLOYED ON EASTERN FLANK IN AREA OF KAOUKABA/HABARIYE/CHEBAA EAST OF THE LITANI, ISRAEL INTENDS TO WITHDRAW 10 KMS TO THE SOUTH IN THE VICINITY OF EL MERI. ABOUT APRIL 13, IDF PREPARED PULL BACK 10 KMS IN CENTRAL SECTOR CONTROLLED BY IRANIANS (AKIYA BRIDGE REGION). IDF WILL SEND SIILASVUO MAP SHOWING THIS INITIAL WITHDRAWAL PLAN ON APRIL 3.

2. GUR UNHAPPY OVER TYRE SITUATION. THERE WOULD BE NO WITHDRAWAL UNTIL TYRE UNDER THE CONTROL OF UNIFIL AND/OR THE LEBANESE ARMY. MOREOVER, IF THE PROBLEM REMAINS UNSOLVED, IDF "MAY BE OBLIGED TO HAVE RECOURSE TO FORCE." GUR SAID ONLY SYRIA HAD SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE WITH PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING REJECTIONISTS, TO SOLVE TYRE PROBLEM. HE ASKED SIILASVUO TO CONVEY TO SYRIANS THAT ISRAEL MAY HAVE NO OTHER OPTION THAN TO USE FORCE IN THE TYRE AREA WITHOUT IMPLYING A THREAT, BUT ONLY TO ENLIST THEIR UNDERSTANDING. ("A DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENT," SIILASVUO COMMENTED TO ME.)

3. CONCERNING TYRE, SIILASVUO TOLD ISRAELIS IDEAL WOULD BE FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. HE INDICATED HE WOULD TAKE GUR'S REQUEST UNDER ADVISEMENT AND WOULD CONSULT UNNY. GUR COMPLAINED
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OVER REPORTS OF FRENCH "FRATERNIZATION" WITH PLO. SIILASVUO REJECTED ALLEGATIONS, DEFENDED COL SALVAN, AND NOTED PALESTINIANS HAD RECENTLY EXCHANGED FIRE WITH UNIFIL.

4. GUR SAID UNIFIL NEEDED APC'S FOR SAFE MOVEMENT AND NOTED NORWEGIANS HAD NONE, SIILASVUO HAS ASKED UNNY TO APPROACH US URGENTLY FOR APC,S FOR ALL UNIFIL UNITS WHICH DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN, PLUS DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS.

5. TO COPE WITH MINE PROBLEM, GUR SAID IDF HAD FOUND BEST AND CHEAPEST SOLUTION WAS ASPHALTED PATROL ROADS. IF UN WOULD PAY, IDF WILLING TO ASSIST. HE WILL SUBMIT PLANS AND COST ESTIMATES TO SIILASVUO ASAP FOR TRANSMITTAL TO UNNY.

6. SIILASVUO'S REPORT REACHED UNNY LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 2. HE WRYLY COMMENTED IT WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED. GUYER/URQUHART HAD REPLIED IT UNACCEPTABLE THAT ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH WITHDRAWAL IS MADE CONDITIONAL ON FACTORS RELATED TO CONTINUANCE AND COMPLETION BY UNIFIL OF ORIGINAL IDF OBJECTIVES. THEY NOTED UNIFIL OBJECTIVES SET OUT EXCLUSIVELY SC RES 425 AND SYG REPORT AND CANNOT BE COMPROMISED. IN LIGHT OF THESE DOCUMENTS, IDF PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL SEEMS SLOW, ALTHOUGH UNNY UNDERSTANDS

IMPORTANCE OF NOT LEAVING VACUUM.

7. IN ITS REACTION, UNNY NOTED ABOVE CONVERSATION DID NOT CORRESPOND TO EARLIER UNDERTAKING BY GUR, ESPECIALLY IN THE TYRE AREA. HIS CONDITIONS CONCERNING TYRE COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE MET BY UNIFIL. RE POSSIBLE SIILASVUO TRIP TO DAMASCUS, UNNY CONSULTING WALDHEIM IN EUROPE. IN ANY CASE, THERE NOT ENOUGH TIME TO ARRANGE TRIP FOR APRIL 4.

8. SHOWED SIILASVUO BEIRUT 1806. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR STRONG SUPPORT OF AMBASSADOR PARKER. HE RECOGNIZES NEED FOR SENIOR UNIFIL REP TO BE LOCATED IN LEBANON QUICKLY AND IS THINKING OF VISITING BEIRUT HIMSELF IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN THE MEANTIME, GOL HAS SENT A LTCOL TO NAQOURA AND LATTER HAS BEEN WELL RE-SECRET

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CEIVED BY LOCAL LEBANESE, CHRISTIANS AS WELL AS MOSLEMS.

9. ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND OTHER SUBJECTS SEPTELS.
NEWLIN

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